

# DAY TWO

## WE WELCOME PEOPLE TO THE FAMILY

We'll start today with a story from the opening minutes of a church service held by Roy Ortlund:

*Welcome to church. Now here's the one thing I invite you to understand. You may have noticed when you walked in that the doors out there are painted red. That is an old Christian tradition, because we enter into the church through the blood of Christ. Out in that world, where we live the rest of the week, we never measure up. Our lives are never complete. We never fully belong. Then we come into the church through the finished work of Christ on the cross, and what makes a difference here - the reason why we belong is that we're walking into the completeness already prepared. Therefore, we can be weak; we can be honest with ourselves and with one another, and with the Lord and he says, "We belong."  
Welcome.*

*So, to all who are weary and need rest ...  
To all who mourn and long for comfort ...  
To all who fail and desire strength ....  
To all who sin and need a Savior ....  
The church opens wide her red doors in the  
name of Jesus, the friend of sinners.  
Welcome, I'm glad you're here.<sup>3</sup>*

## REFLECTION

What was your response to that story? Do you embrace this message for yourself?

Do you think that welcome reflects the heart of Jesus towards all who enter church? Why or why not?

How do you practically welcome others into church? Are there any specific people or groups of people who are difficult for you to welcome?

## **EPHESIANS 4:1-6**

Grab your Bible and open to today's reading. Use the PRAY and HEAR tools as you spend time in the Word.

**H**

**E**

**A**

**R**

Take a moment and use the PRAY tool to respond in prayer.